February 12, 1998





THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS: MAY 1 5 1998

The nominal value of retail sales inched upward in January, rising 0.1 percent above their December 1997 level. Excluding sales at automotive dealers, however, sales were considerably stronger, rising 0.5 percent. Measured from 12 months earlier, total retail sales were up 2.4 percent, the same as for non-auto sales.

Productivity growth in the nonfarm business sector measured 1.9 percent at an annual rate in the fourth quarter, a marked slowing from the 3.5 percent gain registered in the third quarter. For the year (fourth quarter-to-fourth quarter), productivity increased 2.2 percent, the largest increase in five years. Unit labor costs, on the other hand, increased 1.7 percent in 1997, the smallest gain in five years.

The nominal value of wholesale inventories rose 0.9 percent in December 1997, or \$29.8 billion at an annual rate. Wholesale inventories rose \$17.5 billion (annualized) in the fourth quarter after increasing \$15.8 billion in the third quarter.

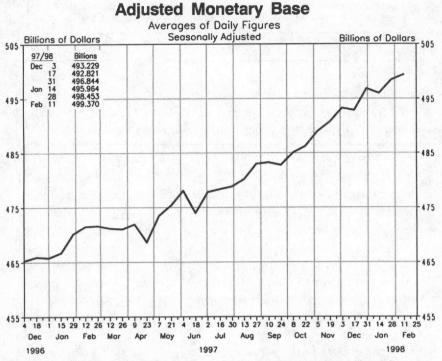
Consumer installment debt outstanding increased \$3.9 billion in December, or 3.9 percent at an annual rate. This increase was largely the result of a 17.4 percent jump in automotive credit. Consumer credit increased 4.7 percent in 1997, following a 7.8 percent rise in 1996.

Except for the series calculated by this Bank (adjusted monetary base, adjusted reserves, and the money multiplier), revisions are now complete for the monetary aggregates reported in this issue.

All data are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.

U.S. Financial Data is published weekly by the Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. For more information on data, please call (314) 444-8590. To be added to the mailing list, please call (314) 444-8808 or (314) 444-8809.

Information in this publication is also included in the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) electronic bulletin board at (314) 621-1824 or internet World Wide Web server at www.stls.frb.org/fred.



The adjusted monetary base is the sum of Federal Reserve deposits and vault cash held by domestic depository institutions, currency held by the public, and an adjustment for the effect of changes in reserve requirement ratios. The manetary base series was recently revised to include Federal Reserve deposits used to satisfy clearing balance contracts. Data are computed by this bank. A detailed description of the adjusted monetary base is available from this bank. Recent data are preliminary.

Adjusted Monetary Base

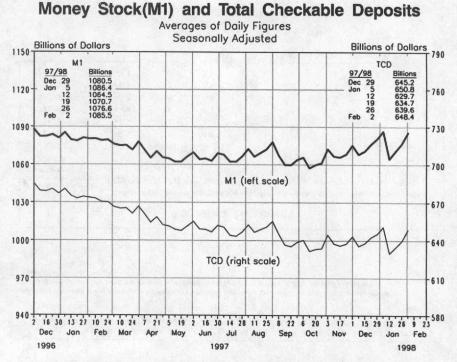
To the average of				-	erage of tw			
two maintenance periods ending:	2/12/97	5/7/97	7/16/97	8/13/97	9/10/97	10/8/97	11/5/97	12/17/97
7/16/97	3.7							
8/13/97	3.7	6.8						
9/10/97	4.6	7.6	7.0					
10/8/97	4.3	6.6	5.4	6.1				
11/5/97	4.9	7.1	6.6	7.5	6.2			
12/17/97	5.6	7.7	7.6	8.4	7.9	10.2		
1/14/98	5.9	7.9	7.8	8.6	8.2	10.0	9.8	
2/11/98	6.0	7.8	7.7	8.3	7.9	9.2	8.9	8.0

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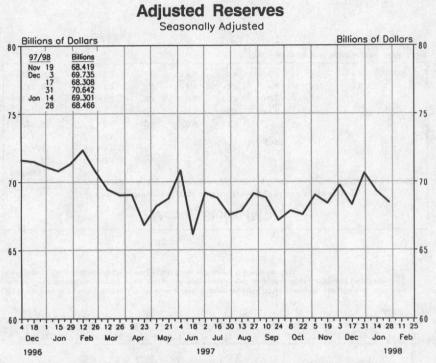
SERVICE CONS



M1 is the sum of currency held by the nonbank public, demand deposits, other checkable deposits and travelers checks. Total checkable deposits is the sum of demand deposits and other checkable deposits at depository institutions. Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.6 release.

Money Stock (M1)										
To the	Compounded annual rates of change, average of four weeks ending:									
To the average of four weeks ending:	2/3/97	5/5/97	6/30/97	8/4/97	9/1/97	9/29/97	11/3/97	12/1/97		
6/30/97	-3.4									
8/4/97	-2.6	-0.2								
9/1/97	-1.4	.1.4	3.4							
9/29/97	-2.4	-0.9	-0.9	-1.9						
11/3/97	-2.1	-0.7	-0.7	-1.2	-4.6					
12/1/97	-1.2	0.4	0.9	0.9	-0.9	3.5				
1/5/98	-0.2	1.7	2.4	2.8	1.9	5.6	8.9			
2/2/98	-0.5	1.0	1.5	1.6	0.7	3.2	4.5	2.9		

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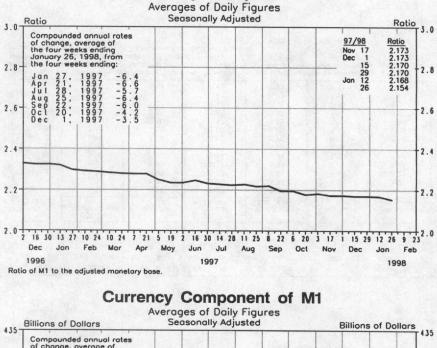
Adjusted reserves is the difference between the adjusted monetary base and the currency component of M1. The adjusted monetary base series was recently revised: See the footnote to the monetary base chart for a description of the change.

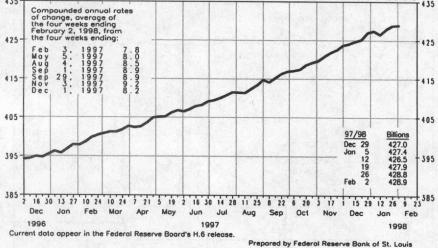
Adjusted Reserves										
2.28.201	Compounded annual rates of change, average of two maintenance periods ending:									
To the average of two maintenance periods ending:	1/29/97	4/23/97	7/2/97	7/30/97	8/27/97	9/24/97	10/22/97	12/3/97		
7/2/97	-11.0	1. 1. 1. 1. 1.								
7/30/97	-8.0	1.3								
8/27/97	-6.2	2.4	8.2							
9/24/97	-6.5	0.2	2.2	-1.7						
10/22/97	-6.4	-0.6	0.3	-2.9	-7.1					
12/3/97	-3.3	2.8	5.0	3.9	3.2	8.5				
12/31/97	-2.4	3.3	5.4	4.6	4.2	8.3	14.2			
1/28/98	-3.1	1.8	3.1	2.1	1.4	3.8	6.5	-1.8		

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Averages of Daily Figures 9.0 Percent Percent 9.0 Prime Rote 8.0 8.0 Corporate Add Bonds 7.0 7.0 6.0 6.0 **Commercial Paper Municipal Bonds** 5.0 5.0 4.0 6 20 3 17 31 14 28 14 28 11 25 4.0 9 23 6 20 4 18 15 29 12 26 10 24 7 21 16 30 13 27 19 2 1 5 Nov Dec Feb Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Jan Dec 1996 1997 1998

1997	7/98	30-Day Commercial Paper	90-Doy CDs	90–Day Bankers' Acceptances	Corporate Aaa Bonds	Corporate Boo Bonds	Municipal Bonds ••
Nov	21	5.52	5.76	5.67	6.83	7.38	5.31
	28	5.56	5.78	5.72	6.83	7.38	5.29
Dec	5	5.68	5.81	5.77	6.81	7.36	5.25
	12	5.74	5.81	5.78	6.84	7.39	5.21
	19	5.82	5.80	5.77	6.74	7.30	5.17
	26	5.90	5.82	5.76	6.69	7.26	5.14
Jan	2	5.71	5.74	5.62	6.70	6.91	5.15
	9	5.48	5.58	5.52	6.55	7.13	5.07
	16	5.44	5.50	5.47	6.55	7.14	4.96
	23	5.44	5.51	5.45	6.67	7.24	5.03
	30	5.47	5.53	5.47	6.70	7.28	5.11
Feb	6	5.46	5.53	5.47	6.68	7.27	5.11
	13	5.47	5.54	5.46	6.74	7.33	N.A.

Current data are from the Federal Reserve Board's H.15 release, and are averages of rates available for the week ending on February 13, 1998. Beginning September 2, 1997, the commercial paper rate reflects new source data, which is currently available only back to the first of the year. • Bond Buyer's Average Index of 20 municipal bonds, Thursday data

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Yields on Selected Securities

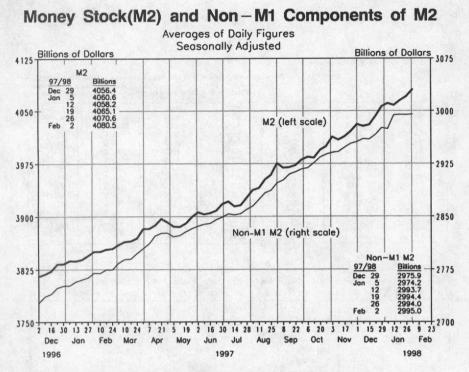
Selected Interest Rates Averages of Daily Figures 8.0 Percent Percent 8.0 7.0 7.0 30-Year **Treasury Securities** 6.0 6.0 Federal Funds Rate 5.0 5.0 **Discount Rate** -3-Month **Treasury Bill** 4.0 6 20 3 4.0 17 31 14 28 14 28 11 25 9 23 6 20 4 18 1 15 29 12 26 10 24 7 21 5 19 16 30 13 27 2 Dec Jon Feb Mor May Apr Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb 1996 1997 1998

1997	/98	Federal Funds ++	3-Month Treasury Bill	1-Year Treasury Bill	5-Year Treasury Securities	10-Year Treasury Securities	30-Year Treasury Securities
Nov	21	5.51	5.15	5.18	5.79	5.84	6.05
	28	5.49	5.13	5.21	5.82	5.86	6.06
Dec	5	5.58	5.13	5.25	5.82	5.86	6.04
	12	5.40	5.10	5.23	5.83	5.87	6.07
	19	5.66	5.12	5.20	5.74	5.77	5.96
	26	5.44	5.27	5.26	5.72	5.74	5.90
Jon	2	5.45	5.24	5.23	5.71	5.75	5.93
	9	5.74	5.04	4.99	5.38	5.49	5.75
	16	5.45	5.00	4.92	5.32	5.45	5.74
	23	5.53	5.02	4.96	5.45	5.59	5.87
	30	5.53	5.06	5.01	5.48	5.63	5.89
Feb	6	5.52	5.05	4.99	5.44	5.59	5.89
	13 •	5.43	5.05	5.02	5.49	5.61	5.91

Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.15 release. • Averages of rates available

•• Seven-day averages for week ending two days earlier than date shown

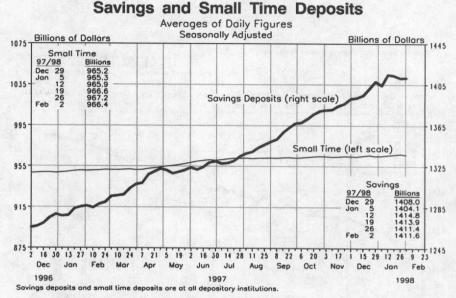
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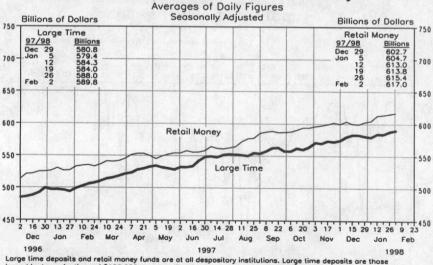
M2 is the sum of M1, savings (including money market deposit accounts), small time deposits and retail money funds. Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.6 release.

Money Stock (M2)										
	Compounded annual rates of change, average of four weeks ending:									
To the average of four weeks ending:	2/3/97	5/5/97	6/30/97	8/4/97	9/1/97	9/29/97	11/3/97	12/1/97		
6/30/97	4.3									
8/4/97	4.3	3.4								
9/1/97	5.2	5.3	7.4							
9/29/97	5.2	5.3	6.8	8.5						
11/3/97	5.4	5.6	6.7	7.7	6.1					
12/1/97	5.6	5.8	6.8	7.6	6.4	6.8				
1/5/98	5.8	6.0	7.0	7.6	6.8	7.1	7.4			
2/2/98	5.9	6.1	7.0	7.5	6.8	7.1	7.3	7.4		

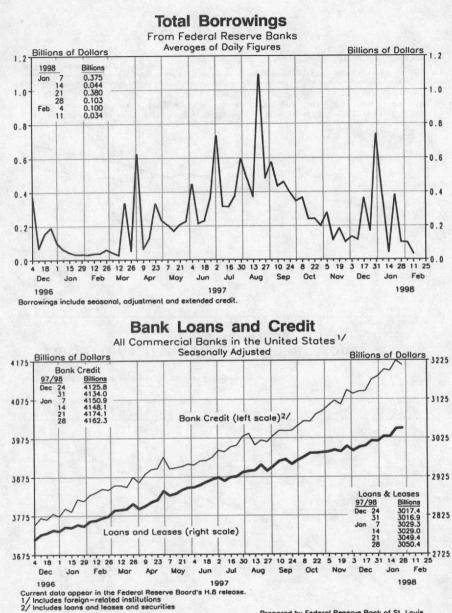
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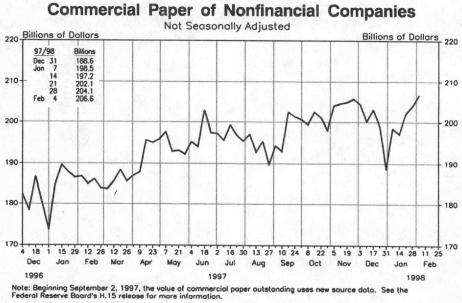
Large Time Deposits and Retail Money Funds



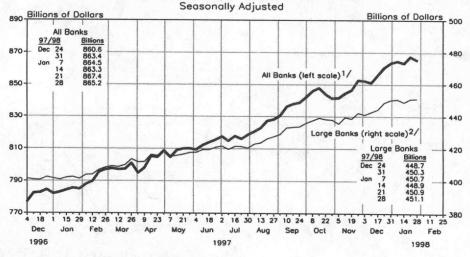
Large time deposits and retail money funds are at all despository institutions. Large time deposits are those issued in denominations of \$100,000 or more. Retail money funds were originally called general purpose and broker/dealer money market funds. Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



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Commercial and Industrial Loans



Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.8 release. 1/ Includes foreign—related institutions 2/ Weekly reporting, domestically chartered banks

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Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.10 release. Data are weighted averages of the foreign-currency price of the U.S. dollar, computed using 10 industrial country currencies.

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